Daily Herald, December 15, 2005

Republican U.S. Rep. Mark Kirk of Highland Park unveiled legislation Wednesday to strip members of Congress of their federal pensions if they are convicted of felonies like bribery, fraud and tax evasion. The measure was inspired by the recent guilty plea of California Republican U.S. Rep. Randy "Duke" Cunningham, who took bribes in return for steering defense contracts. Cunningham resigned but will keep his pension. The measure by Kirk, a leader of the House moderates, also could be taking a shot at conservative Texas Congressman Tom DeLay, the former No. 2 House GOP member who faces campaign fundraising-related charges in his home state and a House ethics investigation over apparent lobbyist-funded trips.